



**MOTION: SOLLEY**

**February 10, 2009**

**SECOND: GREENLAW**

**Regular Session**

**Resolution 09-16**

**RE: DIRECTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRINCESS ANNE OPTION C AS  
A POTENTIAL OPTION FOR FUTURE COURTHOUSE FACILITIES**

**ACTION: APPROVED; Ayes: 5; Nays: 2**

**WHEREAS**, City Council adopted Resolution 07-122 on December 11, 2007, selecting the "Princess Anne Street Option A," as the preferred site option for future courthouse facilities, after receiving the City of Fredericksburg Court Facility Feasibility Study dated August 27, 2007, by Moseley Architects of Richmond, Virginia (the "Moseley Report"), studying eight potential court site options, and receiving comments from the City's judges, Sheriff, court personnel, and the public;

**WHEREAS**, City Council's Goals and Initiatives for the 2009 – 2010 biennium include the goal to complete the design and construction of a combined courthouse complex to replace existing court buildings, as a "Legacy Initiative;"

**WHEREAS**, the City entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the United States Postal Service to develop the Princess Anne Street Option A through the preparation of a court facility master plan, space layout and survey, as authorized by the adoption of Resolution 08-70 on June 24, 2008;

**WHEREAS**, Council reviewed the court facility master plan and space layout at a work session on December 2, 2008 and at a regular meeting of the City Council on December 9, 2008;

**WHEREAS**, increased regional retail competition, decreased state funding, and the worldwide economic recession have combined to produce a dramatic and severe reduction in the City's tax revenues, creating a projected revenue shortfall for Fiscal Year 2009 of \$2 million and for Fiscal Year 2010 of \$8 million;

**WHEREAS**, the Council acknowledges that the needs of the courts, as described in the Moseley Report, by the City's judges, and in security studies, are real and compelling. The City has addressed the security and space needs in part as feasible in the existing structures, but more remains to be done, especially with respect to the Circuit Court and Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court. The courts are a core city service, a component of the public safety function, and an important setting for the social, commercial, business and personal interactions of City residents;

**WHEREAS**, in light of the City's reduced tax revenues and the worldwide economic recession, it is incumbent upon the Council to revisit less expensive site options for the new courthouse, to balance the needs of the courts and the community's ability to pay for a new facility;

**WHEREAS**, the Moseley Report identified an option named "Princess Anne Street Option C," which consists of constructing a new, three-story, 53,000 square foot building to house (and meet the projected 2030 needs of) the Circuit Court, Circuit Court Clerk, Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court, and Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court Clerk, plus the renovation of the existing General District Court as the initial phase, at an estimated cost of \$30 million;

**WHEREAS**, Princess Anne Street Option C also includes a second phase, with the proposed acquisition of the United States Post Office site and the adjoining bank property, for the development of a second court facility to house the General District Court, Commonwealth's Attorney, and Sheriff;

**WHEREAS**, it is apparent to City Council that the second phase of Princess Anne Street Option C is not feasible or cost-effective, and that the City should review instead the immediate security needs of the existing General District Court facility, with a view toward long-term continued use of this building as the General District Court.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Fredericksburg Council does hereby:

1. Reaffirm its commitment to the construction of a new courthouse facility for the people of Fredericksburg as early as possible, and as a priority capital project.
2. Reaffirm its commitment to locating the new facility in downtown Fredericksburg, preferably on Princess Anne Street, the historic location of Fredericksburg's civic institutions.
3. Revise the Princess Anne Street Option C description as follows:
  - (a) construction of a new, three story, 53,000 square foot building to house the Circuit Court, Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court, Circuit Court Clerk, Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court Clerk, and possibly additional support space on the site of the current Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court and the adjoining private property at 707 Princess Anne Street;
  - (b) improvements to the existing General District Court building to meet immediate or short term needs;

(c) planning for the continued use of the General District Court building for the long-term use in its current function.

4. Request the City Manager to expedite the development of a conceptual design and master plan, preliminary site plan, preliminary cost estimate, and field boundary and topographic survey for the Princess Anne Street Option C as revised, and to prepare for the City Council a comparison of Princess Anne Street Option C with a phased approach to Princess Anne Street Option A for its further deliberations.

5. Request the City Manager to generate a preliminary fiscal impact estimate addressing the cost of renovation and reuse of the Renwick Courthouse, which will be a cost under either option; and of vacating and reusing or selling the existing Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court and General District Court buildings, which will be realized under Princess Anne A.

**Votes:**

**Ayes:** Tomzak, Devine, Greenlaw, Kelly and Solley

**Nays:** Ellis and Turner


**Absent from Vote:** None

**Absent from Meeting:** None

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***Clerk's Certificate***

*I, the undersigned, certify that I am Clerk of Council of the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and that the foregoing is a true copy of Resolution No. 09-16 duly adopted at a meeting of the City Council meeting held February 10, 2009 at which a quorum was present and voted.*

  
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***Tony B. Lacey***  
***Clerk of Council***